

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~or and/or~~ inhibiting progression ~~or and/or~~ treating or preventing symptoms of a fibrotic disease selected from a connective tissue ~~disease~~ disease, scleroderma, fibrosis of the skin, Dupuytren's contracture, keloid, scarring and fibrosis of the pancreas comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment ~~thereof~~ therefor a therapeutically effective ~~effect~~ amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;
  - b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 22 to 401 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;
  - c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 22 to 194 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;
  - d) a mutein of any of (a) to (c), wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 90 % identity to at least one of the sequences in (a) to (c);
  - e) a mutein of any of (a) to (c) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the DNA sequence encoding any of (a) to (c) under washing conditions of 12-20°C below the calculated T<sub>m</sub> of the hybrid of the DNA sequence of the mutein and the complement in 2 x SSC and 0.5% SDS for 5 minutes and which reduces collagen synthesis; and
  - f) a salt or fused protein of any of (a) to (e).
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the fibrotic disease is a connective tissue disease.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the fibrotic disease is scleroderma.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is a monomer or dimer.

- 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the substance is glycosylated at one or more sites.
- 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the substance is a fused protein and wherein the fused protein comprises an immunoglobulin (Ig) fusion.
- 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the Ig fusion is an Fc fusion.
- 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance comprises at least one moiety attached to one or more functional groups, which occur at ~~as~~ one or more side chains on the amino acid residues.
- 34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the moiety is a polyethylene glycol moiety.
- 35-41. (Cancelled)
- 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is produced by an isolated cell.
- 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is produced by an isolated cell genetically modified to produce said substance.
- 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering an interferon.
- 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the interferon is interferon- $\beta$ .

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering a Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) antagonist.
47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the TNF antagonist is TBPI<sub>1</sub> ~~and/or~~ TBPII or both TBPI and TBPII.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering an anti-scleroderma agent.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the anti-scleroderma agent is selected from the group consisting of halofuginone, ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, proton pump inhibitors, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, COX-inhibitors, corticosteroids, tetracycline, pentoxifylline, bucillamine, geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitors, rotterlin, prolyl-4-hydroxylase inhibitors, c-proteinase inhibitors, lysyl-oxidase inhibitors, relaxin, prostaglandins, prostacyclins, endothelin-1, nitric oxide, angiotensin II inhibitors, anti-oxidants and SARP-1.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the fibrotic disease is a connective tissue disease.
51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the fibrotic disease is scleroderma.
52. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein progression and symptoms are inhibited.